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# FBI said to be probing death of man whose brothers accused spy chief

From Wire Services

The FBI is investigating the death of a New York businessman whose two brothers recently vanished after accusing a top CIA official of joining them in an illegal stock manipulation deal, according to a published report.

In a copyright story yesterday, the *Chicago Tribune* said the FBI has expanded its investigation of ex-CIA spy chief Max Hugel and the disappearance of Samuel and Thomas McNell to include the death of Dennis McNell, 41, June 1 in New York.

Mr. McNell's death came a week after his two brothers contacted *The Washington Post* to accuse Mr. Hugel of the stock manipulation deal in 1974, the *Tribune* said.

Mr. Hugel, a sewing machine importer appointed by CIA Director William Casey to head the agency's spy affairs, resigned when the accusation was published two weeks ago. However, Mr. Hugel denied the charges, saying the McNells were trying to blackmail him.

When the charges came to light, the McNell brothers disappeared, the *Tribune* said. Directors of Triad Energy Corporation, a New York firm controlled by the brothers, said about \$3.3 million was missing from Triad and a second company they ran, according to the newspaper. Dennis McNell also worked for Triad.

The *Tribune* quoted an FBI spokesman as saying Tuesday that agency director William Webster is now getting regular reports on the inquiry into Dennis McNell's death. According to the newspaper, the Senate Intelligence Committee was "known to have heard that McNell died violently."

However, Ed Gooderham, a spokesman at FBI headquarters in Washington, said yesterday the bureau was not investigating Mr. McNell's death.

He said the FBI is investigating the possible disappearance of securities in connection with Triad Energy Corporation, and that is what Mr. Webster is briefed on—not the death of Dennis McNell.

Mr. Gooderham, who said he was speaking for both the FBI headquarters and the New York field office, said he does not foresee any FBI investigation into Mr. McNell's death.

The *Tribune* reported that around Easter, Dennis McNell took his 16-year-old son into an upstairs bedroom and gave him several thousand dollars in "emergency money"—just in case. Mr. McNell told the teenager to give the money to his mother if anything happened to him, the paper said.

Six weeks later, on the evening of May 31, Mr. McNell returned home from jogging in crippling pain, the paper said. He was rushed to a hospital but died 10 hours later from massive internal bleeding.

Just before Mr. McNell died, his wife, Jean, said doctors told her they believed he had a ruptured spleen, according to the *Tribune*.

It said the New York medical examiner's office was informed by City Hospital Center that Mr. McNell died possibly from a ruptured spleen along with intestinal bleeding and shock.

A City Hospital Center doctor interviewed by the *Tribune* said a rupture of a non-diseased spleen is almost always caused by a "trauma," that is, by some external blow. The physician, Dr. Stewart Resch, chief of emergency room services at the hospital, said death from a ruptured spleen "would be suspicious."

The *Tribune* quoted other doctors as saying an autopsy could have determined the exact cause of death, but, the paper said, no autopsy was performed, because the medical examiner's office said Mr. McNell died of natural causes.

However, the *Tribune* said, one of the Triad directors, Stanley Kielmar, told the FBI that Mr. McNell was "abducted and beaten" twice this year—once in April or May and a second time just before his death.

Mr. Kielmar said he had "heard" from someone in New York of the two beatings of Dennis McNell, but was unable to give

his source, the *Tribune* said. As far as is known, there are no police or hospital records to corroborate his story.

But Wiley Thompson, an FBI spokesman, was quoted in the paper as saying that the FBI's probe of the Hugel-McNell case has been broadened in the past five days to include the death of Dennis McNell.

Mrs. McNell said her husband had had diabetes for years but had the disease under control and felt fine the evening of May 31. But within an hour, he returned home from jogging violently ill. He collapsed on his bed, then was seized with the "dry heaves" and excruciating abdominal pains.

Dr. Resch said Mr. McNell's diabetes would not have affected the spleen, the *Tribune* said. Dr. Resch and other doctors interviewed said a ruptured spleen caused by such activity as jogging would be "very rare," the paper said. Dr. Resch was not among the doctors who treated Mr. McNell.